

REMARKS

I. Status of the Application

Claims 1-49 are currently pending. Claims 1, 11, and 30 have been amended.
Claims 31-49 are new.

II. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. Independent Claims 1 and 11

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 10-13, 15, 16, and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,646,982 ("Hogan") in light of U.S. Patent No. 6,807,571 ("Hatano").

Independent claim 1 defines a method for use in a system enabling a user to share desired information with one or more parties. (emphasis added). As stated in the preamble, the desired information results from "the user searching an information source remote from the system." (emphasis added). Amended claim 1 requires that "data identifying the user" (who searched for the information), be stored in association with the desired information. Claim 1 further requires "conveying the identifying data to the one or more parties" and "allowing access by the one or more parties to the desired information in the repository based on the identifying data."

Hogan discloses an automated voice messaging service. Hogan explains that:

At the scheduled delivery time, the message delivery system informs the network control processor that a message is to be sent. The automated voice response unit retrieves the access record for the message and instructs the network control processor to originate a call to the message recipient. The automated voice response unit retrieves the message from the message database service and delivers the message to the recipient. Once the message is delivered, it can be deleted from the message database.

(Col. 2, lines 37-45).

The Examiner asserts that the message includes "recipient name and phone number, as shown in Table 1." Hogan, however, only states that the information in Table 1 is "collected and stored." (Col. 14, lines 18-30). Hogan does not state that this information is conveyed "to the one or more parties" that the user wants to leave a message with, as claimed. Furthermore, Hogan does not allow "access by the one or more parties to the desired information in the repository based on the identifying data," (emphasis added) which, as explained above, is the identifying data of the user who desires to share the information, as claimed.

Similarly, Hatano, which is directed to an information retrieval system for a user to obtain desired information from an information data server connected to a network (Col. 1, lines 7-9), does not teach or suggest "conveying the identifying data to one or more parties," as claimed.

Independent claim 11 has been amended to define "a method for disseminating information by a system, using a repository." Claim 11 has been further amended to replace "information depot" by "repository" in line 3, since there is antecedent basis for "repository" in the preamble. Claim 11 has not been narrowed by this amendment. Claim 11 further requires "releasing information to selected recipients based on instructions from the user that include the identifying data" of the user. Neither Hogan nor Hatano teach or suggest this limitation.

Independent claims 1 and 11 and the claims dependent upon them, would not, therefore, have been obvious in light of Hogan and Hatano or the other cited references. Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 7, 14, and 17 have been rejected as allegedly being unpatentable or Hogan in view of Hatano and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,888,930 ("Hartselle"). Claims 8 and 18 have been rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over Hogan in view of Hatano and

further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,618,477 ("Lambiose"). Claims 9 and 19 have been rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over Hogan in view of Hatano and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,292,480 ("May"). Since these claims are dependent on independent claims 1 or 11, which should be allowable, as discussed above, these claims should be allowable, as well. Withdrawal of the rejections and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

B. Independent Claim 21

Claims 21-23, 25, 26, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for allegedly being unpatentable over Hogan in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0035501 ("Handel").

Independent claim 21 defines a system for disseminating information using a repository. As in claim 11, above, "information is released to selected recipients, based on instructions from the user that include the identifying data." As discussed above, neither Hogan nor Hatano teach or suggest releasing information to selected recipients, based on instructions from a user that include the identifying data" of the user, as claimed. Neither does Handel.

Claim 21 and the claims dependent upon it would not, therefore, have been obvious in light of these or the other cited references. Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 24 and 27 have been rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over Hogan in view of Handel and further in view of Hartselle. Claim 28 has been rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over Hogan in view of Handel and further in view of Lambiose. Claim 29 has been rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over Hogan in view of Handel and further in view of Hogan. Since these claims are dependent on independent claim 21, which should be allowable, as discussed above, these claims should be allowable, as well. Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

III. New Claims

New independent system claim 31 defines an information storage and retrieval system comprising, in part, memory and a processor configured to “store information found by a user from an information source, in association with data identifying the user, in the memory; receive a request to access the stored information from a third party; and “allow the third party to access the stored information if the third party provides the data identifying the user.” Neither Hogan, Hatano nor the other cited references teach or suggest such a system. Claim 31 should, therefore, be allowable.

New claim 32, which is dependent on claim 31, further recites that the processor is configured to receive the information from a source separate from the system. Claim 32 should be allowable, as well.

New independent claim 33, and claims 34-40, which are dependent on claim 34, define a method for storing and disseminating information comprising, in part, “receiving by a system information found by a user independently of the system, with data identifying the user.” New independent system claim 41, and claims 42-45, which are dependent upon it, similarly require, in part, a processor configured to “receive information found by a user independently of the system, with data identifying the user.” None of the cited references teach or suggest these and other claim limitations. In Hatano, for example, the system that stores the information also conducts the searches for a user.

New independent claim 46 defines a method for a user to store and disseminate information comprising in part, “sending notification to a recipient that stored information is available from the system, with data identifying the user; and allowing access to the recipient if the recipient provides the data identifying the user to the information system.” New claim 47,

which is dependant on claim 46, further requires "storing on the system the information in association with data identifying the user."

New independent system claim 49 similarly requires a processor configured to "send notification to a recipient that stored information is available, with data identifying the user; and allow access to the stored information at the request of the recipient, if the recipient provides the data identifying the user." New claim 50, which is dependant on claim 49, recites that the processor is configured to "store the received information in association with data identifying the user.

None of the cited references teach or suggest these and other claim limitations. Hogan, for example, delivers a message to a recipient at a scheduled delivery time. There is no notification that information is available for retrieval by a recipient.

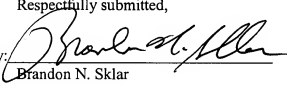
Entry and consideration of the new claims are respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

Reconsideration of the claims in light of these Amendments and Remarks is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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